

MOF reply on BR1M enrages DAP MP
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Segambut MP Lim Lip Eng said he was incensed by the written reply he got from Finance Ministry on the data he asked about BR1M.

In Parliament yesterday, he asked the ministry to furnish him with the detailed breakdown on BR1M payouts according to sex, race, states and age groups.

But the reply he received was only on the breakdown of the payouts according to the year, from 2012 to 2015.

"The reply I got was not satisfactory. They said they don't have a detailed breakdown of the data I asked for.

"How is it possible that the ministry doesn't have such important details?" Lim (photo) asked in a statement today.

The DAP representative wants to know what is the ministry using as an indicator to measure the economy and the cost of living if such data are not recorded and analysed.

"It will be opened up to misuse and manipulation of facts. For example, to show which race is receiving the most payout from the government," Lim added.

This should not become a trend

He said this should not become a trend as the BR1M payouts are not like 'throwing money in Baghdad city', referring to a scene from a late P Ramlee-directed hit movie Ali Baba Bujang Lapuk.

Lim also noted that the payments have been increasing over the years.

In 2012, 4.1 million people received BR1M for a total payout of RM2.1 billion and this year the government will spend RM5.2 billion on 7.2 million who are eligible for it.

"The increase in the number of people receiving BR1M is not something to be proud of. It shows that the people are actually suffering and are trying to make ends meet due to the current economic situation," he said.

Lim said the country is only five years away from achieving Vision 2020, but the citizens have to depend on government handouts and they are given away without detailed data or records.

"Is this how the BN government manage the country's finances?" he asked.

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